

## Message Text

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44

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EB-11 AGR-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10

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R 031700Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5973

INFO USCINCSO

AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

UNCLAS TEGUCIGALPA 0022

GUATEMALA ALSO FOR ROCAP

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, HO

SUBJ: LPEZ SPEECH: FORESTRY POLICY

1. SUMMARY: OBJECTIVE OF PROPER MANAGEMENT TO THE NATIONAL INTEREST TO THIS KEY RESOURCE OF FORESTRY REQUIRES GOH CONTROL. CONTROL TO BE EXERCISED THROUGH A CORPORATION FOR HONDURAN FORESTRY DEVELOPMENT. THE CORPORATION WILL CONTROL BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FOREST CONSERVATION, EXPLOITATION AND MARKETING. END SUMMARY.

2. SPEECH STATES FOUR OBJECTIVES. FIRST, FOREST RESOURCES MUST BE PROTECTED TO ASSURE CONTINUAL BENEFITS. SECOND, DEVELOPMENT OF EFFICIENT INDUSTRY IS NECESSARY. IT MUST TRANSFORM WOOD INTO HIGH ECONOMIC VALUE AND PRODUCE RETURNS TO THE GOVERNMENT FOR USE IN OTHER BASIC SECTORS, ESPECIALLY AGRICULTURE. THIRD, THE POLICY SHOULD RATIONALIZE THE INTERNAL MARKET IN TERMS OF QUALITY AND QUANTITY. FINALLY,  
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PROCEEDS FROM EXPORTS SHOULD BE REINVESTED IN HONDURAS

AND ADD TO THE MONETARY RESERVES OF FOREIGN CURRENCY.

3. THE FOLLOWING FOUR POINTS ARE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE POLICY.

4. THE REFORM PROVIDES THAT BOTH PRIVATE AND PUBLIC FORESTS ARE TO BE AFFECTED. THIS MEANS THAT CONSERVATION, REFORESTATION, AND EXPLOITATION OF THE FORESTS AS WELL AS MARKETING OF THE WOOD IN THE FUTURE WILL BECOME AN EXCLUSIVE FUNCTION OF THE GOH.

5. TITLE HOLDERS OF FORESTED LAND WILL BE OBLIGATED TO ADAPT ALL MEANS INDISPENSABLE TO PROTECT THE RESOURCES AND INCORPORATE FORESTED LANDS TO THEIR NATURAL DESTINY. ACTIONS TO THIS END WILL BE TAKEN AT THE TIME OF EXPLOITATION. AS A CONSEQUENCE, FORESTS UNDER PRIVATE TITLE CAN ONLY BE EXPLOITED BY THE GOVERNMENT IN CONFORMITY WITH PLANS AND PROGRAMS THAT IT ESTABLISHES.

6. TO IMPLEMENT THE PROGRAM, A SEMI-AUTONOMOUS AGENCY, CORPORACION HONDURENA DE DESARROLLO FORESTAL (CHDF), WILL BE FORMED. IT MAY ORGANIZE ITS OWN COMPANIES OR COMPANIES OF MIXED CAPITAL, OR OPERATE THROUGH COOPERATIVES OR OTHER PUBLIC ORGANIZATIONS.

7. THE PROGRAM OBJECTIVE IS NOT ONLY EFFECTIVE CONTROL OVER FOREST RESOURCES BUT ALSO TO GIVE MORE PARTICIPATION TO RURAL AND URBAN PUBLICS. SPECIAL ATTENTION IS TO BE GIVEN TO PUBLIC INDIGENOUS TO FORESTED AREAS IN ORDER TO PROVIDE TRAINING AND ORGANIZATION OF PEOPLE TO PREVENT LOSS OF FORESTS THROUGH FIRES AND TO IMPLEMENT THE OBJECTIVE\* OF THE CHDF AND TO FIND GAINFUL EMPLOYMENT IN THE INDUSTRY.

8. COMMENT: THIS SHARP CHANGE IN GOVERNMENT POLICY WILL REQUIRE MUCH DEEPER EXPLANATION THAN PROVIDED IN SPEECH. CREATION AND OPERATION OF NEW AGENCY WILL REQUIRE TIME. INTERIM POLICY DETERMINATION MUST BE PROMULGATED IF INDUSTRY IS TO CONTINUE PRESENT OPERATIONS.

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 JAN 1994  
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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** n/a  
**Control Number:** n/a  
**Copy:** SINGLE  
**Draft Date:** 03 JAN 1974  
**Decaption Date:** 01 JAN 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
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**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Authority:** n/a  
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**Disposition Comment:**  
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**Page Count:** 2  
**Previous Channel Indicators:**  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
**Review Authority:** WorrelSW  
**Review Comment:** n/a  
**Review Content Flags:**  
**Review Date:** 26 FEB 2002  
**Review Event:**  
**Review Exemptions:** n/a  
**Review History:** RELEASED <26 FEB 2002 by chappeld>; APPROVED <15-Nov-2002 by WorrelSW>  
**Review Markings:**

Declassified/Released  
US Department of State  
EO Systematic Review  
30 JUN 2005

**Review Media Identifier:**  
**Review Referrals:** n/a  
**Review Release Date:** n/a  
**Review Release Event:** n/a  
**Review Transfer Date:**  
**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
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**TAGS:** PINT, HO  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
**Markings:** Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005